DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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August 12, 1991

TO: All County Welfare Directors   Letter No.: 91-72
      All County Administrative Officers

SUBJECT: MEDS REFUGEE/AGED ALIEN INFORMATION REPORTING PROCESS

REFERENCE: All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) 89-13

The purpose of this letter is to provide information on the planned MEDS Refugee/Aged Alien reporting process. These MEDS changes are being developed to allow counties online and batch capability for submission of 1) alien information to MEDS for Medicare Buy-In, in lieu of the DHS 6166 process, and 2) refugee information directly to MEDS, in lieu of the existing paper/tape MC 255 process. This information is being provided to allow counties to begin working on whatever changes may be required to their EDP systems. Implementation is planned to be phased in over a period of several months beginning with the online ID card issuance screens, which are planned for late August 1991.

BACKGROUND

Aged Aliens:

Section 1836 of the Social Security Act states that any alien, age 65 or older, who is not entitled to monthly Social Security retirement/disability (Title II) benefits or Railroad Retirement benefits, must be lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States with five years continuous residence in order to be eligible for purchase of Medicare Part B coverage. Under the current system, most Medi-Cal beneficiaries age 65 or older are automatically presumed to be Medicare eligible pending confirmation of Medicare eligibility. MEDS records for these beneficiaries are coded to indicate "presumed Medicare eligible" (Medicare status 07) once the beneficiary attains 65 until Medicare eligibility is confirmed or denied.

As indicated above, legal aged aliens are not entitled to Medicare coverage until they met a five-year residency requirement. Under the current system, counties report the date of entry into the United States for these aged aliens to the Medicare Buy-In Unit on form DHS 6166 (4/90) (formerly HAS 8). The Medicare Buy-In Unit updates MEDS to change the "presumed Medicare eligible" status to "aged alien" status (Medicare Status 99) and to post the date of entry. This in turn suppresses the Medicare indicator on Medi-Cal cards until the five-year residency requirement has been met. The date of entry is used to initiate Buy-In action once the residency requirement has been met.

Until MEDS is updated with the correct alien status, thereby allowing for appropriate coding of Medi-Cal cards, counties have been required to hand type cards for these beneficiaries. In order to minimize the need for hand typed cards, MEDS has made an exception to the "presumed Medicare eligible" logic for those aged individuals eligible for Medi-Cal under an alien aid code.

Refugee Reporting:

Counties are currently required to report time-eligible refugees to the Department of Health Services (DHS) on form MC 255 "Refugee Cross Reference Transaction." MC 255's are submitted to the state monthly, and are used to update the Refugee Tracking System. Although some counties submit this information on tape, most counties use the paper MC 255's.

DHS uses this information to claim special refugee federal funds for Medi-Cal services rendered to time-eligible refugees. These special funds cannot be claimed if DHS is unaware of the beneficiary's refugee status and date of entry. The federal government also mandates that refugee reports be submitted by the State on an annual basis.

It has been difficult to ensure that all time-eligible refugees are reported via the MC 255 process. By allowing counties to report refugee information directly to MEDS, DHS expects more complete reporting of refugees, and more accurate claiming of refugee funds.

NEW REFUGEE/AGED ALIEN INFORMATION REPORTING PROCESS

New Data Elements/Acceptable Input Values:

Three new data elements, the Refugee/Alien Indicator, INS Entry Date and Eligibility Approval Date have been added to MEDS:

Refugee/Alien Indicator	
(MEDS Name - Refugee/Alien)	1 - Indochinese Refugee
(DE #2009)	7 - Other Refugee
	8 - Cuban/Haitian Refugee
	9 - Aged Alien (Medicare ineligible and not 1, 7 or 8)
	* - Delete Refugee/Alien Information

Codes 1, 7 and 8 will be used to identify time-eligible refugees. (These are the same refugee type codes reported on the MC 255). Code 9 will be used to identify aged aliens who are not time-eligible refugees and also are not Medicare eligible because they have not met their five-year residency requirement and are not otherwise eligible for Medicare. A blank will be used to delete codes incorrectly entered on MEDS. Reporting of a blank will follow the standard MEDS conventions; i.e., and asterisk (*) for online and the data element number followed by an -, for batch.

NOTE: Refugee reporting continues after a refugee's time eligibility has expired. Therefore, counties should not delete Refugee/Alien Indicators and entry dates from MEDS unless the information is incorrect. The refugee indicator will suppress Medicare coding on the Medi-Cal card until the beneficiary is age 65 or over and has met the five-year residency requirement.

INS Entry Date:

(MEDS NAME - INS-Entry-MMYY)
(DE #9252)

The Eligibility Approval Date is the month and year in which the eligibility worker completed the eligibility determination and approved the case. This is the same data element as the Eligibility Approval Date used for establishing the Buy-In effective date for MN recipients. A separate ACWDL (90-46) contains instructions for using this data element for Buy-In eligibles.

MEDS Transactions:

The Refugee/Alien Indicator and INS Entry Date may be reported to MEDS either online or through batch. Once the changes are fully implemented, these data elements will be accepted on any of the MEDS transactions listed below. Reporting of a Refugee/Alien Indicator will suppress the Medicare coding on the beneficiary's Medi-Cal card until other information is received confirming Medicare eligibility.

EW05   Transfer County of Responsibility
EW15   Immediate Need Card Issuance
EW20   Add New Recipient Record
EW30   Modify MEDS Record
EW50   Request ID Care Over 12 Months
EW55   SSI/SSP Modify/ID Card Request

The Eligibility Approval Date may be reported either online or batch, but will be accepted only on the EW05, EW20 and EW30, since it is not necessary for Immediate Need card issuance.

MEDS Edits/Worker Alerts:

When the Refugee/Alien Indicator is 1, 7 or 8, the INS Entry Date must be present either on MEDS or on the transaction; in addition for EW05, EW20 or EW30 transactions, the Eligibility Approval Date must be present either on MEDS or on the transaction. When the Refugee/Alien Indicator is 9, the INS Entry Date must be present either on MEDS or the transaction. If the INS Entry Date is entered, a Refugee/Alien Indicator must be present either on MEDS or on the transaction. When a blank is reported in the Refugee/Alien Indicator, the INS Entry Date may not be entered. A blank in the Refugee/Alien Indicator will automatically remove the INS Entry Date from the MEDS record.

Input errors in the Refugee/Alien Indicator, INS Entry Date and Eligibility
Approval Date fields will be fatal errors and will cause the MEDS transaction to
reject.   Online transactions with errors will reject with online error messages.
Rejected batch transactions will generate MEDS County Worker Alerts

Additional Information:

Screen formats for the Online ID Card Screens are attached.   Installation of
these changes is planned for late August.   As indicated in the attachment,
several enhancements that were deferred when these screens were converted to
COBOL II will be installed with the changes.

The screen formats for the remaining MEDS online transactions and specific
timeframes for implementing individual transaction changes will be included
upcoming ACWDL's and Change Cycle letters.

Questions relating to aged aliens should be directed to Henry L. Placencia
at (916) 739-3205.   Questions relating to refugees should be directed to
Shirley Deasy at (916) 445-1969.   Systems related questions should be directed
your MEDS liaison.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosure

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
       Medi-Cal Program Consultants

Revised Online ID Card Screens

Several enhancements that were deferred when the online ID Card Issuance screens were converted from Assembler to COBOL II will be installed in conjunction with the changes necessary to support Refugee/Aged Alien Information Reporting and the One Step Other Health Coverage Code Override project. Key changes to the screens include:

o All screen layouts have been revised to make them more consistent and to improve the location of the most frequently used fields.

o REFUGEE/ALIEN AND INS-ENTRY-MMYY have been added to the EW15, EW50 and EW55 screens to allow counties to use MEDS in lieu of the DHS6166 to report on Medicare ineligible aged aliens and to use MEDS in lieu of the MC255 to report time-eligible refugee information.

o OHC-PER-MEDS has been added to the EW15 and EW55 screens to support the One Step Other Health Coverage Code Override changes.

ESAC and %-OBLIG have been added to the EW50 screen to accommodate Special Program ID Card issuance beyond the regular MEDS history period.

ɔ NEW-BIRTHDATE has been added to the EW50 screen to accommodate birthdate corrections when issuing ID Cards beyond the regular MEDS history period.

o Required fields definitions for EW50 have been revised so that name and sex need not be entered when that information is already available on MEDS and so that a missing Other Coverage code will be identified before major edits are performed.

Revised Online ID Card Screens

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| EW15          ** REQUEST IMMEDIATE NEED CARD ISSUANCE **     OPD - MM/DD/YY |
|                                                                              |
| CASE-NAME _____     DISTRICT ___        EW-CODE _____             |
|                                                                              |
| COUNTY-ID-PER-MEDS __ __ _____ _ __                                         |
| MEDS-ID _____          BIRTHDATE _____                                  |
|                                                                              |
| SEX _                     NEW-BIRTHDATE _____    HIC-NO _____        |
| NAME:  LAST _____  FIRST _____         INITIAL _                 |
| NEW-COUNTY-ID:  AID-CODE __   SERIAL _____ FBU _ PERSON-NO   __            |
|                                                                              |
| ESAC _                    NEG-ACTION *             %-OBLIG __                |
| SOC-AMOUNT ____           LTC-IND _                CERT-DAY __               |
| OTHER-COV _               SEN-SERV-CD ___          ORIG-AID __               |
| HHC-PER-MEDS _            REFUGEE/ALIEN _          INT-ENTRY-MMYY ____       |
|                                                                              |
| CARD-ISSUE-LOCATION ____  REASON-FOR-ISSUANCE __   VALID-MMYY _____          |
|                                                                              |
| MAIL-TO-ADDRESS: LINE-1 _____                                  |
|                  LINE-2 _____                                  |
|                  CITY/STATE _____         ZIP-CODE _____          |
|                                                                              |
|_____|
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| EW45          ** REQUEST IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUANCE **     OPD - MM/DD/YY |
|                                                                              |
| CASE-NAME _____     DISTRICT ___        EW-CODE _____             |
|                                                                              |
| COUNTY-ID-PER-MEDS __ __ _____ _ __                                         |
| MEDS-ID _____          BIRTHDATE _____                                  |
|                                                                              |
|                                                                              |
| CARD-ISSUE-LOCATION ____  REASON-FOR-ISSUANCE __   VALID-MMYY _____          |
|                                                                              |
| MAIL-TO-ADDRESS: LINE-1 _____                                  |
|                  LINE-2 _____                                  |
|                  CITY/STATE _____         ZIP-CODE _____          |
|                                                                              |
|_____|
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Revised Online ID Card Screens

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 EW50          ** REQUEST ID CARD OVER 12 MONTHS PRIOR **      OPD - MM/DD/YY

 CASE-NAME _____    DISTRICT __           EW-CODE ____

 CARD-ISSUE-COUNTY-ID __ __ _____ _ __
 MEDS-ID _____            BIRTHDATE _____

 SEX _                        NEW-BIRTHDATE _____    HIC-NO _____
 NAME:  LAST _____      FIRST _____          INITIAL _

 ESAC _                                                %-OBLIG __
 SOC-AMOUNT ____              LTC-IND _                CERT-DAY __
  OTHER-COV _                 SEN-SERV-CD ___          ORIG-AID __
                             REFUGEE/ALIEN _           INS-ENTRY-MMYY ____


  CARD-ISSUE-LOCATION ____    REASON-FOR-ISSUANCE __   VALID-MMYY ____
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 EW55            ** SSI/SSP MODIFY/ID CARD REQUEST **         OPD - MM/DD/YY

 CASE-NAME _____    DISTRICT __           EW-CODE ____

 COUNTY-ID-PER-MEDS __ __ _____ _ __
 MEDS-ID _____            BIRTHDATE _____

 SEX _                        NEW-BIRTHDATE _____
 NAME:  LAST _____      FIRST _____          INITIAL _

 ADDRESS: LINE-1 _____
          LINE-2 _____
          CITY/STATE _____                      ZIP-CODE _____

 OTHER-COV _
 HIC-PER-MEDS _              REFUGEE/ALIEN _           INS-ENTRY-MMYY ____


 CARD-ISSUE-LOCATION ____    REASON-FOR-ISSUANCE __   VALID-MMYY ____
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